

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Currently amended) A player for storing and playing back media content received from a remote content source pursuant to stored user content preferences, comprising:
a storage medium for storing media content for playback;
a storage medium in the player for storing data representing user content preferences;
a wireless transceiver link for communicating with the content source; and
a first instruction component for establishing communication with the content source using the transceiver link and using such link for wireless downloading onto the media content storage medium one or more content files responsive to the player-stored user content preferences, said first instruction component performing player-initiated content downloads using player-stored user content preferences to locate content at the at least one content source.

22. (Original) The player of claim 21, wherein the player further comprises a first docking station connector used as two or more of: a wired content communication interface, a power charging interface, a digital content output interface, an analog content output interface, and an electronic control interface.

23. (Original) The player of claim 21, wherein the player further comprises a second docking station connector used for a vehicle docking connector with an analog content output, a digital content output and a power input.

24. (Original) The player of claim 21, wherein the player further comprises a rechargeable battery and battery charging circuitry.

25. (Original) The player of claim 21 wherein the player is configured to use as a content source one or more of the following: a personal computer, a peer player, or a website.

26. (Currently amended) The player of claim 21, wherein the transceiver link comprises a wireless transceiver link with a virtual private network facility.

27. (Currently amended) The player of claim 21, wherein the transceiver link further comprises a wired transceiver link.

28. (Original) The player of claim 21, wherein the transceiver link comprises a wireless local area network.

29. (Currently amended) The player of claim 21, further comprising a second instruction component for managing content downloading, the second instruction component enabling a user to define for communication to a content source user content preferences based on one or more of the following: a song title; a user-defined playlist of song titles; a user-defined genre associated with a content file; an album title; an artist; or another item of metadata associated with a content file.

30. (Original) The player of claim 21, further comprising a second instruction component for managing content downloading, the second instruction component enabling a user to define for communication to a content source user content preferences specifying a schedule for when content is downloaded to the player.

31. (Original) The player of claim 21, wherein the player stores a usage file that tracks content playback and communicates the usage file to the content source.

32. (Original) The player of claim 31, wherein the content source has stored user content preference information and the usage file is configured for analysis by the content source and for facilitating modification of the stored user content preferences in response to the usage file.

33. (Original) The player of claim 31, wherein the usage file comprises information on the frequency of playback of content files, skipping of content files and failure to play content files to completion and the content source modifies the stored user content preferences in response to said information.

34. (Currently amended) The player of claim 21, further comprising: a playback device for creating a playback signal from the stored media content; a playback transmitter for short range broadcast transmission of the playback signal modulated onto a broadcast signal; and a frequency selector for surveying ambient broadcast transmissions and responsive to the ambient broadcast transmissions, selecting a broadcast signal frequency for the playback transmitter that reduces interference between the selected broadcast signal and the ambient broadcast transmissions, said step of selecting comprising finding the lowest signal strength among ambient broadcast transmissions.

35. (Original) The player of claim 34 wherein the playback signal is an audio signal and it is modulated onto an FM broadcast band signal.

36. (Original) The player of claim 34 wherein the frequency selector comprises a broadcast band receiver, said broadcast band receiver adapted also to provide music for realtime or near-realtime playing on the player or for processing and storing as a content file.

37. (Original) The player of claim 35 further comprising a headphone connector and a sensor operatively connected to the headphone connector for inhibiting operation of the playback transmitter when a headphone is connected to the headphone connector.

38. (Original) The player of claim 34 further comprising an encoder and means for accessing text data in metadata associated with the stored media content and transmitting the text data for reception in coordination with the selected broadcast signal, wherein the encoder encodes according to RDS or equivalent.

39. (Original) The player of claim 21 further comprising an interface associated with the player

for receiving user preference information and transmitting it via a wireless transceiver link to the content source.

40. (Original) The player of claim 21 further comprising a docking station with two or more of the following interfaces: (a) a docking connector power interface, (b) a docking connector analog audio interface, (c) a docking connector digital audio interface, (d) a docking connector universal serial bus interface, (e) a docking connector data interface, (f) a docking connector control interface, wherein the player is easily mounted to and dismounted from the docking station providing power to the player via said docking connector power interface, analog audio output via said docking connector analog audio interface, digital audio output via said docking connector digital audio interface, a serial bus interface via said docking connector universal serial bus interface, a data interface to an external computer via said docking connector data interface and a control interface to an external computer via said docking connector control interface.

41. - 52. (Withdrawn)